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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments,
William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, April 6th, 1864.

W. J. DOUGLAS, Esq., in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

Rev. Hamilton Haire, Mount Baillie, Dundalk : proposed by the Rev. G. H. Reade.

William O'Driscoll, Esq., Listowel ; and John Sibthorpe, Esq., Listowel : proposed by M. E. Conway, Esq.

Miss Price, 37, Trinity-square, Tower Hill, London ; and Rev. Silvester Malone, R.C.C., Kilkea : proposed by the Rev. J. Graves.

Edward Read, Esq., Richmond-street, Londonderry ; and John Wilkyns Coppin, Esq., Strand-street, Londonderry : proposed by A. G. 'Geoghegan, Esq.

Robert W. Lowry, Esq., Jun., Pomeroy House, County Tyrone : proposed by the Rev. R. Johnston.

George Anderson, Esq., C. E., White House, Ashford, Essex ; and John B. Lacy, Esq., Clonmel : proposed by Michael Kearney, Esq.

Captain Henry Meagher, Waterford Artillery, 19, Mall, Waterford : proposed by Major Elliott.

Theobald A. Purcell, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 52, Richmond-street, Dublin : proposed by M. O'Donnell, Esq., Q. C.

The Rev. James Graves brought forward a memorial from the Committee of the Society, to be presented to the Lords of the Treasury, if sanctioned by the Meeting. The memorial prayed for the concentration of the Irish Records in a repository suitable for their keeping, and that their classification and calendaring might be entrusted to persons properly educated and qualified for the purpose.

The Meeting fully sanctioned the memorial, and ordered that it should be signed, on behalf of the Society, by the President and Committee.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland: their "Proceedings," Vol. IV., part 2.

By the Smithsonian Institute: their "Annual Report" for the year 1861.

By the Author, through Aquilla Smith, Esq., M. D.: "The Old Countess of Desmond; an Inquiry (concluded), When was she Married? With Numismatic Crumbs." By Richard Sainthill, of Topsham, Devon (now of Cork). Dublin University Press, privately printed.

By the Author: "A Church History of Ireland," by the Rev. Sylvester Malone.

By the British Archæological Association: their "Journal" for 1862 and 1863, (bound copies), and the quarterly part for March, 1864.

By the Ilam Anastatic Drawing Society: their Volume for 1863.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: "Archæologia Cambrensis," third series, Nos. 32–37, inclusive.

By the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool: their "Proceedings" for 1862–3. No. 17.

By Llewellyn Jewitt, Esq., F. S. A.: "The Reliquary," Nos. 15 and 16.¹

By the London and Middlesex Archæological Society: their "Transactions," Vol. II., part 5.

By the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland: their "Journal," parts 25 and 26.

By the Surrey Archæological Society: their "Collections," Vol. II., part 3.

By the Cambrian Institute: "The Cambrian Journal" for December, 1862, and March and June, 1863.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine" for January, March, and April, 1864.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 1094–1104, inclusive.

By the Numismatic Society: "The Numismatic Chronicle," new series, No. 11.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their "Journal," No. 79.

By the Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire: their "Report" for 1862.

By the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society: their "Re-

¹ These numbers contain articles on the Greatbreaks family, and the ancient History of Lismore, the latter fully illus-

trated, by the Rev. S. Hayman. Ireland receives a full share of attention in this well-edited periodical.

port" for 1862-3 ; also an Essay by Professor H. Hennessy, on "The Relations of Science to Modern Civilization."

By Mr. Charles Budds, Thomastown : five very fine Photographs, four of them giving different views of the Abbey of Jerpoint ; the subject of the fifth was the castle and bridge of Thomastown.

By Mr. Matthew W. Rowe, Carlow : Photographs of the Castle of Carlow, and Castle and Bridge of Leighlinbridge.

By Dr. A. K. Young, of Monaghan : Photograph of the Round Tower of Clones.

By Mr. Bettsworth Lawless : a very interesting silver seal, which had been recently picked up at Warrington, near this city. The seal turned on a pivot, and showed the armorial bearings of the Murphy family on one side, and of the Shee family on the other, so that an impression of either could be taken at will. The initials L. M., however, being engraved on one side, seemed to indicate that it was executed for some member of the Murphy family, whose wife or mother probably bore the name of Shee.

Mr. Prim observed that the inscription on the family monument in St. Canice's Cathedral showed that Barnaby Murphy, who died in 1741, had married Mary Shee. The seal seemed too old to have belonged to any of their children, but no doubt there were other intermarriages between the families, both of which were numerous and highly respectable amongst the inhabitants of Kilkenny in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This was not the first interesting addition made to their collection of old local family seals by Mr. B. Lawless, to whom the Society was much indebted for his liberality in that way.

By Mr. Patrick Cody, County Surveyor's deputy, Mullinavat : a very curious glass bead—probably one of those which had formed a primæval necklace—recently found at Ballynooney, near Mullinavat, on the farm of Mr. Ryan.

By the Rev. James Graves, on the part of Mr. Love, Annagh Castle, county of Tipperary, a flint arrow-head, in beautiful preservation, found in Roebuck bog, county of Cavan, twenty-two feet beneath the surface ; and a small silver coin of the reign of King John, which had been turned up also in the county of Cavan. Mr. Graves said that the coin had been submitted to Dr. Aquilla Smith, who described it as being a halfpenny of King John, Dublin mint : Obverse, IOHAN REX ; Reverse, ROBERD ON D.

Mr. R. Malcomson, Carlow, on the part of Mr. Bower, County Surveyor of Carlow, sent five silver coins, part of a recent railway "find," in the North of Ireland, concerning which he communicated the following information in a letter to the Secretaries :—

"Our County Surveyor (John Bower, Esq., a zealous Member of your Society) has placed in my hands the accompanying coins, recently dis-

covered with a quantity of others of a similar character and class in a railway cutting of the Letterkenny railway (of which Mr. Bower is Engineer in Chief), and has kindly permitted me to forward them to your care for inspection, and possible elucidation. Mr. Bower thus describes, in a short note to me, the locality where the 'find' occurred in the townland of Carrowen, parish of Burt, and county of Donegal :—

“The point where they were found is close to a cross road, and behind the National School-house of Carrowen, and at a distance of seven statute miles W. N. W. from the centre of the city of Londonderry, and one mile N. N. E. from the ruin of the ancient castle of Burt or Birt, built by Sir Caher O'Doherty in the sixteenth century. The ruin stands on a commanding elevation, 200 feet over the sea, near the shore of Lough Swilly, and less than a quarter of a mile therefrom.”

Dr. Aquilla Smith forwarded the following description of these coins, which are all in excellent preservation :—

“PENNIES OF EDGAR, SOLE MONARCH, A. D. 959 TO 975.

1. *Obv.* ✚ EADGAR REX, in centre a ✚.
Rev. GRID—MONE, in two lines.

2. *Obv.* ✚ EADGAR REX, in centre a ✚.
Rev. VNBEIN—MÖ, in two lines.

The moneyers 'Grid' and 'Unbein' are in Ruding's list.

3. *Obv.* ✚ E'ADGAR REX ∪.
Rev. ADEL'A—VER MÖ, in two lines.

Adelaver moneyer is in Ruding's list. Type same as Ruding's fig. 9, pl. 21.

4. *Obv.* ✚ E'A'D G'A'R RE ∴
Rev. GRID—MONE, in two lines.

Grid moneyer is in Ruding's list.

5. *Obv.* ✚ EADGAR REX A (i. e. Anglorum).
Rev. ✚ EIMOL ✚ ME - -

Type same as Ruding's fig. 15, pl. 21. Part of legend on reverse illegible. The moneyer 'Eimol' not in Ruding.

“Edgar's coins have been found in Ireland in greater numbers than any of the Saxon series. It seems most important that the remainder of this 'find' should be examined, as it may lead to the discovery of more unpublished moneyers. I do not recollect hearing of Saxon coins having been found farther north than Armagh.”

By Mr. Rowe, Carlow : a number of coins, chiefly foreign, and some interesting iron articles, of the latter of which his letter gave the following notice :—

“By M. D'Allamand, I have the pleasure of sending for presentation to the Kilkenny Archæological Society the articles enclosed, viz. :—

"1. A rebel pike of the year '98. This bears the mark of service, there being on it two sword cuts, very similar to those I saw on the sword of an officer who charged and took a gun or guns at the battle of Sobraon, and which were given by the gunner, a Sikh, chained in Asiatic manner to his gun. If so, the owner of this pike must have been cut down at once. 2. An arquebuss barrel and wheel-lock, which were found in the old bed of the River Burren, at the time of its drainage, some years since. The stock, when raised, crumbled away. The Burren rises at Mount Leinster, and, running due north nearly to Tullow, turns at a sharp angle westwards, and falls into the Barrow at Carlow. A view of its junction is given in the photograph of Carlow Castle which I lately sent, evidently showing that it anciently formed the southern boundary of the town, and also moated the Castle. 3. A pistol tinder-box. 4. An iron-mounted pistol, the stock of which is inlaid with silver. When I first got these articles I heated them very thoroughly, and then oiled them well, so, if kept from damp, they will preserve well. I hope these things may interest the Members."

By Mr. 'Geoghegan, Londonderry, on the part of Mr. John Bold, of Dunloe, in that county: photographs of two ancient swords, and of a curious fictile vessel, found on the western coast of Donegal. Mr. Bold's account of them was as follows:—

"No. 1. Broadsword found in the winter of 1798, in a small cave, or covered way, in the old stone fort of Dun Brennan, townland of Coe, parish of Lettermacanard, Co. Donegal, by Caher O'Dunlavy (since gone to America), when on his keeping, after 'being out' on a little excursion to the county Antrim. With it was found another sword, at least five feet in length, long since cut up into lagh hooks. For the benefit of the uninitiated, it is right to mention, that on the west of Donegal, a lagh hook is formed of a broad curved blade of iron, about eighteen inches or two feet in length, fastened hook-fashion at the end of a wooden pole some twenty or twenty-five feet long. The fishermen on the coast here, standing in their canoes, cut with this implement the branches and roots of the submarine plants in deep water. The sea weed on being cut rises to the surface, and is either at once gathered into the curraghs, or is allowed to float to the shore with the tide. This sea weed is made into kelp, and moreover in 'the Rosses' forms almost the only manure used for potatoes. I am inclined to think that the old sword thus cut up was a two-handed one.

"No. 2. Cut-and-thrust sword, with metal handle, found in the autumn of 1855, at Meenanaloby, townland Cricamore, parish Templecrone, county Donegal, under the roots that formerly supported an enormous fir-tree, five feet deep. Of the size of these roots some idea may be formed from the fact, that, at the present moment, covered with 'scraws,' (heather sods), they solely form the roof of an outhouse in which twenty-four sheep are kept every night. With the sword, the finder, Owen O'Donnell, discovered a large globular-bellied, coarse black glass bottle, with a long neck, since broken. It contained a thick yellow sediment, resembling bees' wax, without scent or taste.

"No. 3. Earthen jar, or pipkin, found about 1848, by Shane Do-

herty, in cutting turf in the island of Innis Free, in the bay of Innis Rath O'Donnell, near Arranmore Island, parish Templecrone, Co. Donegal. It was eight or nine turf deep in an old partially drained bog, that had once been a *seskin* or quagmire; the ear is broken off. Since found, it has been constantly tied up at the head of a bed, and used by old Oona O'Doherty for holding medicine."

Mr. Prim exhibited a transcript of a portion of a very interesting document, the "Cartulary of Sir Richard Shee," a large vellum book of the period of Queen Elizabeth, in which were recorded all the "evidences" connected with the property possessed by Sir Richard Shee, and acquired by purchase by him and his father in the counties of Kilkenny, Tipperary, and Wexford. This curious book, Mr. Prim stated, was at present in the possession of Colonel William O'Shee, of the French service, and resident at Pontoise, in the department of the Seine and Oise, the lineal descendant and representative of Sir Richard Shee, and consequently the head and representative of the Kilkenny Shees—Nicholas Power O'Shee, Esq., the head of the family in Ireland being descended from the third, whilst Colonel O'Shee was descended from the eldest son of Sir Richard. Last year Colonel O'Shee had paid a visit to Kilkenny, from a desire to see the monuments of, and collect all the information possible respecting, the family history of his ancestors. He had then afforded him (Mr. Prim) an opportunity of examining Sir Richard Shee's Cartulary; and an inspection of it at once convinced him of its great importance in aiding to elucidate the history of a large number of ancient manors and townlands in the county of Kilkenny; as not only were the deeds of conveyance of the various properties to Sir Richard Shee and his father from those from whom they had made the purchases set out, but in most instances all the deeds which conveyed them from family to family since the first Anglo-Norman settlers had acquired them in right of the Conquest were transcribed into the book; and beside serving to illustrate local, territorial, and family history to a great degree, a clue was given to the derivation of the names of a large number of places in the county, no trace of which he had previously been able to discover. At his request, Colonel O'Shee had most kindly made the transcripts from the Cartulary, which were now laid before the meeting, and had offered to contribute still more for the benefit of the Society, in return for such information as the Secretaries could supply to him respecting his ancestors, from the period of their settling in Kilkenny. He (Mr. Prim) was sure the Society could not fail to appreciate the very great labour which Colonel O'Shee had thus undertaken for them, as evidenced by the carefully copied documents now laid before the meeting; and he was convinced that they would fully recognise the value of the documents themselves when hereafter published in the Society's transactions.

The transcripts, having been examined by the meeting, excited much interest, and there was a unanimous expression of their feeling of indebtedness to Colonel O'Shee, who had thus taken so much trouble on the Society's behalf.

On the motion of the Rev. James Graves, seconded by Dr. James, it was resolved that Colonel O'Shee should be elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society ; and that the thanks of the meeting should be conveyed to him by the Secretaries.

Mr. Graves, on the part of George V. Du Noyer, Esq., of the Geological Survey Department, exhibited to the meeting fac-similes of the illuminations of an ancient Charter Roll of the Corporation of Waterford. The document was of the period of Richard II., when the Corporation of Waterford had got all their charters, comprising grants from the time of Henry II. downwards to that period, transcribed into a single roll, the work being illustrated in the margin throughout with illuminations of great interest and beauty, including full-length portraits of each king whose charter was given, some in armour, and some in robes of state. Portraits also of an archbishop in full canonicals, of a chancellor, and of many of the chief burgesses of the city of Waterford, as well as singularly curious portraits of the mayors of Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, and Cork, at that day, figured in the quaint costume of the Second Richard's reign though partaking of many of the peculiarities of that of Edward III., adorned the document. The illuminations varied from nine to three inches in length. Mr. Du Noyer having been recently in Waterford, in connexion with the Geological Survey, he (Mr. Graves) had brought him to the town clerk's office to see the roll, and, at his request, had procured for him permission from the Corporation of Waterford to copy these curious illuminations. Mr. Du Noyer, struck with the interest and importance of this ancient work of art, as being unique in its kind, and considering that it, like all other unique records, was in danger of being lost or injured, wished to publish fac-similes of all the illuminations, and had already issued a prospectus calling for 400 subscribers at £1 each to cover the outlay. There was no doubt that the production of such a work would throw much light on the question of art, and on the social habits in the Anglo-Norman cities of Ireland at the close of the fourteenth century ; whilst the charters were highly important in an historic point of view. In case of Mr. Du Noyer obtaining the 400 subscribers—which he seemed to be quite sanguine of—he (Mr. Graves) had agreed to edit the roll. The meeting could judge what the chromolithographs from the accurately coloured tracings made by Mr. Du Noyer would be, by the drawings now before them.

The meeting evinced the warmest interest in Mr. Du Noyer's

drawings; and it was resolved that the Society should subscribe for five copies, in order to assist so far in securing the publication of so very desirable a work.

The Rev. G. H. Reade, Inniskeen, county of Louth, contributed a drawing of an ancient ecclesiastical bell, in his possession. It was constructed of bronze, with an iron lining riveted on. It was eight inches high, two feet round the mouth, and greatest diameter seven and one-half inches. It was an adjuration bell, and might have belonged to St. Columbkille, as it was found at Gartan, the birth place of that saint, in the county of Donegal, and had been preserved in a family there from time immemorial: it had been used as a medicine bell—a drink of water out of it being the panacea. In 1847, the potatoe failure drove the family of its possessor to America, and the bell was sold to the person, from whom the Rev. Mr. Reade obtained it, for £3. The rivets were bronze, the handle iron, and the outer covering of bronze was nearly perfect. The inside lining of iron consisted of four plates, and he fancied that it was put inside in order to keep the venerated bronze together, as there were rivets indicating that purpose. The iron did not line the top, which was convex. The bronze outside was one casting.

Mr. 'Geoghegan forwarded the following note with reference to the MS. copy of the Bible brought under the notice of the Society by him at the January Meeting (p. 8, *infra*) of the Society:—

“With respect to the original owner and testator of the Codex De-rensus, any opinion that I may venture to offer must, of necessity, be founded on conjecture. Doctor Reeves, in a letter he has favoured me with on the subject, observes—‘I have found the names of Petrus de Paris, and John Spenser, on the Irish Chancery Rolls, but they are too far back, and John Spenser was not an ecclesiastic.’ In the absence, therefore, of more tangible proof, there are two events in Irish history in which the name of Parys or Paris appears, to which I would wish to direct attention.

“In the year 1535, a certain Christopher Paris, who was Governor of the Castle of Maynooth under Thomas Earl of Kildare, betrayed it to Sir William Skeffington, and, according to Stanihurst, was forthwith hung as a reward for his treachery. Both the betrayal of the castle and the immediate hanging of Paris are denied by Moore, who states that there is no official record in the State Papers of either circumstance; and that, on the contrary, the castle was taken by assault after a siege of nine days,—its governor, Paris, with many others, having their lives spared until *the Lord Deputy and Council should decide their fate*.

“Fifteen years afterwards, A. D. 1550, when the Baron de Fourquevaux, and the Sieur de Monluc, afterwards Bishop of Valence, were sent by Francis I. on a secret mission to the Irish northern chiefs, the French noblemen were met at Dunbarton by two Irish agents—William Fitzgerald, a relative of the Earl of Kildare; and *George Paris, a gen-*



OLD THOMOND BRIDGE AND KING JOHN'S CASTLE, LIMERICK.

[ANCIENT BRIDGES OF IRELAND.—No. I.]

tleman of the English Pale, 'whose father or brother had been executed for treason, and therefore (writes Sir John Masone to the English Council), 'he seemeth to seek all the ways he can to annoy the King, and the Realm.'

"This circumstance certainly corroborates Moore's doubts of the credibility of the statements of Stanihurst concerning the treachery of Christopher Paris and his melodramatic death at the hands of Skeffington.

"Accompanied by Fitzgerald and Paris, the French emissaries sailed for Ireland, anchored in Lough Foyle, landed at Culmore, and from thence proceeded to Donegal Castle, the Residence of O'Donell, where they met that chieftain, and O'Neill Earl of Tyrone.

"It is thfore a curious and suggestive coincidence—bearing in mind the statement of Doctor Reeves that the manuscript has been executed by a Continental artist, and the express directions of its owner, Peter Paris, that it should be handed down in succession from one Irish priest to another—to find it still in the same ecclesiastical custody, and in the identical county with which, more than 300 years ago, another Paris had such intimate connexions, in which at one time he resided, and from whence he past and repast on more than one occasion to the Continent, being, in the expressive words of Sir John Masone, 'a common post between the wild Irish and the French.'"

The following communication was received from Maurice Lenihan, Esq., Limerick, in illustration of the accompanying plate of old Thomond Bridge, and King John's Castle.

"These remarkable objects of historic and antiquarian interest must always command the attention of every person who visits Limerick. When, in 1185, John Earl of Morton and Lord of Ireland arrived in that city, captivated with the beauty of the place his first care, we are assured by Richard Stanihurst and earlier writers, was to fortify it—to build a castle, and throw a bridge across the Shannon. Tradition states that the building of the bridge cost only a sum of £30; but this is not surprising when a labourer's hire was less than three halfpence a day. We are assured by the 'Four Masters,' that at the period in question, there were but two bridges over the river between the sea and its source, and that those were of wood. The marks of the hurdles on which the fourteen arches of Thomond bridge were turned were visible to the day the bridge was removed, to make way for the present structure, in the year 1838. Whether King John erected the bridge so removed in 1838, is doubtful, as the principle and materials of its construction point to a period long subsequent, viz.,—the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the old bridge over the Shannon, at Athlone, which was similar in many respects, was erected. That he chose the site, however, for a bridge, there is every reason to believe; and that he built a wooden bridge, at Limerick, is probable. On the many incidents in the wars of Thomond, and in the later sieges of Limerick, of which Thomond bridge was the theatre, this is not the place to dwell. The site is picturesque, and the view from it beautiful—embracing the Shannon as it washes the walls of the castle, and winds through a lovely country towards Killaloe—with the Clare mountains forming a noble background. The castle has been always an object of as deep interest as the bridge. It is one of the largest and most ancient

of our Anglo-Norman fortresses. When the workmen of John, who had now become King, were about to build and enclose it, the work was for some time put a stop to by the intervention of the bishop, on whose lands the king's men had encroached. The bishop's remonstrance was forwarded to the king, who was then in London; and John wisely be-thought him that his better policy was discretion. Writing a strong and earnest letter, he commanded that no progress should be made in the work until his return to Ireland (which took place in 1210), in order that the bishop should receive no injury, and that his Majesty should continue on the best terms with his venerable father in God. The letter, or at least a copy of it, is extant in the 'Black Book' of Limerick, and proves the king's anxiety to live on cordial terms with the Church. He appointed a constable to the castle, and a chaplain. The succession of constables was uninterrupted up to the decease of the late Colonel Vereker, in 1842, who was the last Constable of the Castle of Limerick, the office having been prospectively abolished in the year 1809. When chaplains ceased to be appointed to the castle, we have no record; but it is certain that the office was an important one in early times, and that the chaplain claimed, though he was not permitted to enjoy the tithes of a certain fishery, mill, and land, against the treasurer of the Cathedral, as appears also by the 'Black Book' above referred to. The castle from age to age has undergone many repairs and alterations; in the first Lord Or-rery's time it was in a very bad state; it forms nearly a quadrangle, and within the ground enclosed are walls and towers; in 1751 barracks were erected within the enclosure, capable of containing four hundred soldiers. The castle gate towards the King's Island, or near Thomond bridge, is flanked by two enormous towers, one of which is semicircular, the other circular; and the arms of the city surmount the gate. The engraving represents these historic objects as they were early in the present century."

Mr. B. B. Feltus sent the following memorandum relative to the similarity often to be observed between Irish and Eastern customs:—

"It is an immemorial custom, still in some places observed by the Irish peasantry, for the relatives in a house where a dying person lies to crowd round the bed, and lift the body *in articulo mortis*, placing it on the floor, there to expire. This custom, at once so strange and *bizarre*, does not seem to have any connexion with Christian rites or traditions, but to point to a source of pagan symbolism. In an interesting volume by Canon Trevor on the 'Natives of India' (see chap. vii., p. 224), the same custom is stated to be common among the Hindus—a coincidence so striking, though between peoples wide as the poles asunder, can hardly appear fortuitous; and, with many other traits of Eastern origin observable in language, phraseology, and sentiment, opens an interesting field for ethnological research."

The following paper was then submitted to the Meeting:—